

First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

August 2014

Pastor Drew's Views

Three Things

There is no doubt that we have entered into a time of uncertainty and unknown. We have not opened this door hastily. The Session has prayed, listened, and searched the Scriptures. It is upon our convictions and upon the convictions of the church through the centuries that we begin this journey together. Having said that, what do we know for sure? What can we be certain about? We know that God is sovereign. We know that God is good. Therefore, we shall not fear.

I love Haggai's three things. These are three truths for obedient believers who put God first. From Haggai 2:

"I am with you."
"My Spirit remains among you."
"In this place I will grant peace."

Yes, this is a time of uncertainty and unknown. This cannot be avoided. We need faith the most now. We need obedience more than ever. We must put God first. The truth is, if we do, He will show us The Way.

Joining you in the journey,

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

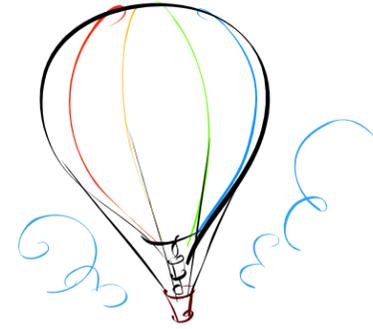
Company is Coming!

It is time to get our church home company ready because we are expecting lots of visitors!

We want each Sunday school room to look its best before we kick off the new year on August 10, so on Saturday, August 2, please join us for fun, food, and fellowship as we clear out, clean up and fluff up all the Sunday school rooms in both rooms.

Lunch will be served to those who come and help. Please call and let the church know if you're coming to the Sunday School clean up day so we have food for you!

Thank you so much!



The Magical, Mystery, Ministry Tour on Sunday, August 10th!

There will be a congregational breakfast beginning at 9 a.m. sharp on Sunday, August 10th. You don't need to bring a thing for it! Ministry teams are working hard to show you what they're up to and how you can dive in.

There will be a best table contest and everyone gets a vote! Table winner will receive a prize. Here's a peek: the Christian Education ministry team will unveil a brand-new, church-wide curriculum! That's not all though. Hey, come and see what all the fuss is about! Hey Parents! This is a kid-friendly event. Please join us!

Administration/Personnel Ministry Team

We are looking forward to the Magical, Mystery Ministry Fair on August 10. Please come visit our table and be prepared to sign-up to provide Random Acts of Kindness for our staff this fall.

Flowers from your garden, homemade jelly or jam, tickets to the movies, \$5 car wash, a special dessert, an encouraging card, gift certificate, etc., etc., etc.

Diane Gordon
Doug Tingle
Bill Baldwin
Sid Esary
Charlotte Thacker

Music Ministry

Come to the Magical, Mystery, Ministry Tour and see what we have at our table.

Christian Education

Don't forget to join us on Sunday, August 10 for the Magical, Mystery Ministry Tour and visit the Christian Education Ministry Table and learn all about the new Sunday school curriculum, The Gospel Project!

Christian Education Events and Opportunities

Promotion Sunday
Train little children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Proverbs 22:6

Parents and children,

On Sunday, August 3 we will promote and recognize our children as they move up a grade, so please plan on joining us in the children's Sunday school wing at 9:45 sharp. You don't want to miss a thing!

We will have a big kick-off party, with games and food and even a short movie. Parents, please join your children as they come meet their new teachers and join in on this time of food, fun, and fellowship.

Please join us in congratulating these children as they move up another grade in school as well as in wisdom and stature before the Lord:



Jimmy Elling - Fifth Grade
Eden Elling - Fourth Grade
Drew Tingle - Third Grade
Davis Johnson - Second Grade
Sara Aldridge - First Grade
Henry Aldridge - First Grade
Xander Brown - Kindergarten
Megan Hamilton - Kindergarten
Seeley Esary - PK4
Bradley Hamby - PK4
Tori Jones - PK4
Anna Johnson - PK4
Garrett Johnson - PK4



Sunday School Like It's Never Been Before

The Gospel Project, our new church-wide curriculum, will take us all on a grand, three-year journey through the entire Bible. Each of us, from two to a hundred and two, will be studying the same part of scripture at the same time. Just imagine the wonderful discussions around your dinner table.

The Gospel Project presents the redemptive work of Jesus like you've never seen it. In the course of three years, we will see how Christ fits into the great Bible stories and how His redemptive work begins in pre-creation and culminates in Eternity!

We will be making and equipping disciples of all ages by immersing ourselves in the gospel through every story, every theological concept, and every call to mission from Genesis to Revelation.

You don't want to miss this exciting adventure! Join us as we set out each Sunday at 9:45 sharp

If you aren't already attending a Sunday School class, this is a great time to begin. Not sure which class is right for you? Just call the church office and we will help you figure it out.

Opportunities to Serve in August

Elder in Charge

Gary Hollums

Children's Message

August 3 - Cindy Baynham
August 10 - Drew Elling
August 17 - Lou Baldwin
August 24 - Diane Gordon
August 31 - Ina Jones

AUGUST SESSION MEETINGS

August 10 at 8:30 am for prayer
August 24th after the service

Ministry Team Leaders - please email your team minutes to millie@fpcgriffin.org by noon on Thursday, August 21st.

Communion Servers August 3

Gary Hollums, Capt.
Wendi Kirby
Roger Soons
Joe Bailey
Bonnie Pfrogner
Louis Thacker
Todd Thacker
Tom Hamilton
Tim Brown
Bob Bugg

A Plan to Read Through the Bible in a Year

www.esv.org/biblereadingplans

August Ushers

Ralph Jones, Captain,
Robert Webster
Elizabeth Webster
Carolyn DeBruin
Doug Brown, Alternate

2s and 3s Nursery workers

8/3 - Seth and Emily Brown
8/10 - Trey and Tara Jones
8/17 - Wendi, Elizabeth and Laura Kirby
8/24 - Kyle and Johnna Johnson
8/31 - John and Ruth Allison

Food Pantry Delivery

In July we took several items to the food pantry:
27 boxes of cereal
2 cans of beans
1 can of tomato soup
4 Miscellaneous

When Doug arrived at the food pantry, they were very excited to see him because they were completely out of cereal. They get a lot of requests for cereal, so we are helping in a way that really meets a need.

Church-wide Memory Verse for August

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Worship Ministry Team

The Early services for June and July have been well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Jason and Seth for leading these services. To all of those who have been willing to share their inspiring testimonies, we offer a special thanks. Jackson Elling added his drum skills on several Sundays, and that was always enjoyed. Brian Chipman very faithfully set up for and took down the chairs and equipment each week, and so many of you prepared and served breakfast each week. Thank you! It could not have happened without your participation.

We are beginning to plan for the Kirkin, Veterans Day, and (believe it or not) Hanging of the Greens! There will be lots of opportunities for people to be a part of all of these.

Old-Fashioned Sing-Along

Mark Your Calendar!!! Remember all of those old hymns you loved to sing when you were growing up? On August 24 at 3:00 pm, First Presbyterian will sponsor an Old-Fashioned Sing-Along to be held at our church. Several other churches have been asked to join us in leading this, and the entire community will be invited to attend and join us in raising our voices in praise and joy to the Lord.

A love offering will be taken for the family of Officer Kevin Jordan, the policeman who was killed earlier this year while on duty.

After the time of song, we will offer fellowship and light refreshments and for all to enjoy.

Please plan to attend!!

Youth

I just wanted to thank the entire church for their support of the students going on the summer mission trip this year. You helped 13 students go to New Orleans this year. Each of them learned not only about service but also about God.

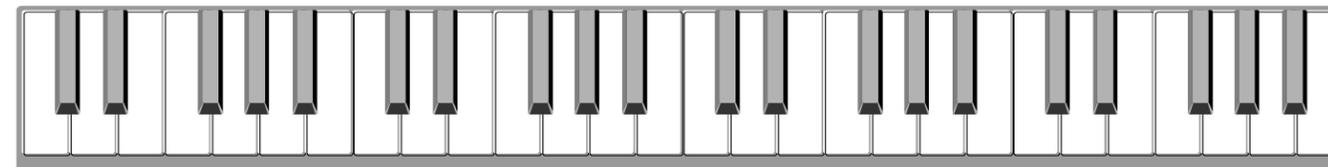
May of the projects this year involved helping local schools in New Orleans. One of the schools that I had the privilege to work in was the KIPP Leadership Academy Primary School in the 9th Ward. As you probably know, the 9th Ward was one of the hardest hit areas after Katrina. The school has been rebuilt, and it looks amazing! However, 96% of the children there live under the poverty line, and almost that same number receive free breakfast and lunch each day. Our students were able to help teachers in schools just like this one all over the city, allowing teachers to plan and get ready for their students, without having to move around classrooms or cut out a million little things.

Some of our students also got the privilege to work at the Ozzanan Inn, a men's homeless shelter. There they demolished the entire second floor, to make it a better place for those who are lost, broken and many times forgotten. What a great experience!

I get the privilege to join these amazing students on these trips, and I just wanted you to know that God is using them for his glory, and FPC Griffin was represented well in New Orleans. Thank you again for making it all possible. Here will definitely be treasure laid up in heaven for you and these students.

In Christ,
Seth

MUSIC MINISTRY



A big welcome back to the members of the Chancel Choir after a month long vacation from choir rehearsals during July. We are looking forward to the fellowship and joy of singing together in praise of our Lord, Jesus Christ as we are preparing our music for the Sunday morning worship services. Until further notice, choir rehearsal will begin at 7:00 every Wednesday evening. We'll probably change to 7:30 when Wednesday night suppers return.

I will be attending a Church Music Conference at Pinelake Music Company in Decatur August 14-15 where choir directors from Georgia and nearby states participate in reviewing new church music for the coming year. This will give me some great ideas for music for the Chancel Choir as well as our young disciples.

Thanks to Seth and Emily Brown, Elizabeth Kirby and Jackson Elling for leading us in singing on July 27th during the 11:00 service. We look forward to their participation during worship services throughout the coming year!

On August 10th, be sure and visit the Worship ministry's table at the MAGICAL MYSTERY MINISTRY TOUR BREAKFAST. Make your reservation by August 8th for a wonderful Sunday morning breakfast, too!

Plans are also being made for a young disciples' music ministry to begin soon. Parents, look for a special announcement about what will be happening this fall with our children.

HANDBELL CHOIR MEMBERS!!!! ATTENTION!!!!

Handbell practice will resume on August 5th at 5:45 in the music room. It's time to get back in the swing of things and start ringing those bells again! There is still room for more ringers if anyone is interested in joining us. You will certainly enjoy it!

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Joyce Kirby and Pat Thompson for all their hard work preparing for worship services each week. They put in many hours practicing during the week, as well as playing during the services every Sunday morning. Praises, also, for Joyce's successful eye surgery!

Yours in Christ,
Sylvia



Old Fashioned Hymn Sing

Sunday, August 24th

3:00 pm

We invite the
community
to join us as
we praise the
King of Kings
together.

Refreshments will
follow the hymn sing.
A free will offering will
be taken up to benefit
the Officer Kevin Jordan
family.

First Presbyterian Church
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Missions and Outreach

As Drew has clearly said, Christians were given the Great Commission by Jesus Christ in **Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)**. Jesus told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations [peoples], baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

We are His disciples and we are supposed to act in obedience to His command.

How are you doing?

Are you volunteering in our church, are you on a church team, do you volunteer in our community, do you help in our local missions? Are you helping our less fortunate brothers and sisters in some way?

If the answer is no, or maybe, then we have some ideas how you can be obedient and we will help you do it! Listed here are only few:

Volunteer in one of the nine Griffin missions that we support: Backpack Food For Kids, Christian Women's Center, Five Loaves and Two Fish Food Pantry, Hope Health Clinic, Spalding/Pike Meals on Wheels, Rushton's Hope, Spalding Samaritans, Young Life and Young Lives, Griffin Habitat for Humanity.

Rushton's Hope is a local mission serving the poor and homeless with a meal every Sat., bags of food, a clothes closet, furniture, witnessing and prayer, worship, and block parties throughout the year. They need help on certain dates. Contact Bill Farr for more information at 770-584-9727 and sign up in the Narthex on Sunday.

Second Annual Praise Day Parade and Booth: this year our church will be involved with a float and booth. We need volunteers to make this a success on Sept 13th. We have a list of activities/duties. Sign up in the Narthex on Sunday.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association's online Ministry: This is a great opportunity for those who may be physically challenged or those who simply prefer to share their love of Jesus Christ with people who are searching for answers. There are many opportunities to serve in this ministry from your home and computer with live chat or e-mail correspondence. They will train you and support you! Very rewarding. Talk to Bill Farr, he is an e-counselor.

These are but a few of the opportunities that will help you serve with joy in obedience to Christ's Great Commission. Please think about these opportunities and ask yourself,

What am I doing to be obedient to Christ's command?

Contact anyone on the Missions and Outreach Team: Marion Musser, Andy Musser, Jon Geerlings, Dianne Pinson, Bill Day, Pastor Drew and Bill Farr. We need more members on our team. It is painless! Please join us.

Looking ahead

The first Wednesday night supper is September 10.

Back to 11 a.m.
Worship will return to 11 a.m. start time on Sunday, August 10th. Please make a note of this.

Presbyterian Women
The church office will be closed on September 1st for Labor day, so we will resume our Bible study on Monday, September 8th, at 10:15.
Cards will be sent later in the month with the study information.



Operation Christmas Child 2014 GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY.

For 21 years, Samaritan's Purse has delivered shoebox gifts to girls and boys in more than 150 countries. Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, is for everyone—individuals, families, churches, businesses or civic groups. Whether packing shoebox gifts, volunteering, giving financially, or praying for children overseas, each person plays a vital role. Collection Week is November 17-23. Now is the time to get started gathering items! School supplies (pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.) are plentiful and the right price now. While you're out, look for hygiene items (toothbrush, toothpaste mild bar soap [in a plastic bag], comb, washcloth, etc.); t-shirts, ball caps, socks, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), and, of course, toys (small cars, dolls, balls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, Slinky, toys that light up and make noise). **DO NOT INCLUDE:** used or damaged items, war-related items (toy guns, knives or military figures), chocolate or food, out-of-date candy, liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins, breakable items, or aerosol cans. A donation of \$7 per box is needed to help cover shipping and other project expenses. Go to www.samaritanspurse.org and click on Operation Christmas Child for more information and ideas on packing a shoebox. Remember to pray that God will touch the heart of every child who receives a shoebox gift and that many children and families will come to faith

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Session 8:30 am Magical, Mystery Ministry Tour 9:00 am *Anne Armour	4 *Bill Farr & Elsa Sell *Martha Dennis	5 Handbells 5:45 pm	6 Chancel Choir 7:00 pm **Tom & Cindy Baynham	7 8 9	1 15 **John & Ruth Allison *Kyle Johnson *Roy Villers	2 Christian Education Workday 9-2 *Jean Reahard *Jane Bailey
10 Session 8:30 am Magical, Mystery Ministry Tour 9:00 am *Anne Armour	11 *Bill Farr & Elsa Sell *Martha Dennis	12 Handbells 5:45 pm *Ione Kelley	13 Chancel Choir 7:00 pm **John & Dorothy Craig	14 15 16 *Jauntia Saddler	22 23 30 *Bill McLaren *Cindy Baynham *Mikayla Stormes	2 Christian Education Workday 9-2 *Jean Reahard *Jane Bailey
17 Session after worship Old-Fashioned Hymn-Sing 3:00 pm *Camille Berry	18 *Jennifer Elling *Janice Aiken	19 Handbells 5:45	20 Chancel Choir 7:00 pm *Linda Soons	21 28 29 **Roger & Linda Soons *Rachel Bailey	22 23 30 *Bill McLaren *Cindy Baynham *Mikayla Stormes	2 Christian Education Workday 9-2 *Jean Reahard *Jane Bailey

Sunday Activities

Sunday School.....	9:45 am
Worship.....	10:50 am
PYF.....	6:00 pm

*-Birthday
**-Anniversary

Denominational Concerns

The Session has officially begun the process called “Respectful Discernment and Possible Mutual Separation” with the Greater Atlanta Presbytery. The Session was unanimous in this decision. The purpose of entering into this process is to seek dismissal or separation from our current denomination (PCUSA or Presbyterian Church in the USA) and to seek membership in a new denomination (ECO or Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians). There are many steps to complete this process, which will likely take up to six months or more to complete. Please be patient. Please pray. Please ask questions. The Session will be working diligently to answer any questions you have. Thank you.



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Many Thanks

Allison Esary and her family would like to thank the congregation for all of the prayers and support during this difficult time. Also, thank you for the food that was provided after the service. We are grateful to have such an amazing church family to lean on.



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"It's a tricky theological point.
You say you covet your neighbor's humility?"

Be Involved

Mission Outreach

Coming soon!

Monthly Service opportunities...
Jesus said “Go!”
(Matthew 28:18-20)
so we’re gonna go! Let’s serve our
way into the hearts, minds and
souls of Griffin and “even to the
ends of the earth”!

School Supplies

We are partners in education with Futral Road Elementary School. One of the things we do to help is collect school supplies for the needy children. We also fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Back-to-School sales are great opportunities to stock up for both mission projects.